

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-11 EUR-25 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 DRC-01 /222 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0107

DISTO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UN

SUBJ: REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (ROB) EXPERTS GROUP

1. AT MEETING OF VINCI GROUP AMBASSADORS JAN 15, MAIN QUESTION

DISCUSSED WAS WEO PARTICIPATION

IN EXPERTS GROUP ON ROB. UK, US AND FRANCE

WERE ASKED TO STATE THEIR VIEWS. UK SAID EXPERTS STUDY

COULD PROVE USEFUL IN EXPOSING HOLLOWNESS OF SOVIET ROB

PROPOSAL BUT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO SEEK MUCH BETTER

REPRESENTATION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SUBSTANTIAL

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MILITARY BUDGETS AND COULD PROVIDE QUALIFIED EXPERTS. US

SAID IT WAS CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION BUT HAD NOT MADE FINAL DECISION. FANCE SAID IT IS OPPOSED TO PARTICIPATION SINCE IT HAS NOT INTENTION OF REDUCING ITS MILITARY BUDGET AND IS AGAINST A LINKAGE BETWEEN DISARMAMENT SAVINGS AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. NO COUNTRIES PRESENT INDICATED ANY PRESENT INTEREST IN NAMING AN EXPERT (APART FROM JAPAN WHICH SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY DO SO IF UK, US AND FRANCE DID) AND SOME, SUCH AS NETHERLANDS, CANADA, FRG AND AUSTRIA SAID THEY WOULD NOT PROVIDE AN EXPERT IF ASKED. HOWEVER, THERE WAS SOME SYMPATHY FOR VIEW WHICH ITALY IS PARTICULAR EXPOUNDED, THAT WHATEVER THE MERITS OF THE STUDY, IT WAS A BAD PRECEDENT TO FIVE WEO'S SO LITTLE REPRESENTATION AND SOME KIND OF DEMARCHE TO SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE MADE. LATTER QUESTION WILL BE CONSIDERED AT EARLY WEO MEETING.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE STRONG FRENCH LINE TAKEN AT MEETING BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED SINCE REFTEL SENT, WE KNOW THAT FRENCH MISSION HERE BELIEVES A CASE FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION CAN BE MADE AND INTENDS TO TRY TO OBTAIN NEW INSTRUCTIONS. IN MEANTIME IT IS MAKING POINT TO SECRETARIAT THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR HURRY AND FIRST MEETING OF EXPERTS GROUP SHOULD BE PUT OFF BEYOND PRESENTLY ENVISAGED FEB 11 OPENING DATE. ALTHOUGH BELGIUM DID NOT SPEAK UP AT MEETING, WE UNDERSTAND IT WOULD CONSIDER NAMING AN EXPERT IF ASKED TO DO SO BY WESTERN NUCLEARS.

SECRETARIAT IS PRESSING US AND BRITISH DAILY FOR WORD ABOUT OUR PLANS. UK POSITION APPEARS TO BE THAT IT WILL PARTICIPATE IF BOTH US AND FRANCE DO AND IF THERE IS SOME ASSURANCE THAT EXPERTS GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO DO SOME SERIOUS WORK. IT IS STALLING THE SECRETARIAT UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIES. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, IRAN WILL TAKE INDONESIA'S PLACE AS ONE OF THE THREE ASIAN PARTICIPANTS.

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